

**EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
MILLTOWN DAM COMMITTEE
1580 PAOLI PIKE
DECEMBER 14, 2016 – 7:00 pm
FINAL MINUTES**

Present:

Mike Lehmicke – Chair, Vince “Mick” McInnis - Vice Chair, Glenn Artman, Dana Pizarro, Dave Hewett, and Chuck Hepler. Also in attendance were Supervisor Marty Shane, Township Manager Rick Smith, and Peter Simone, Sarah Leeper, and Melissa Barley from Simone Collins.

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance:

Mike called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence:

Mike called for a moment of silence to honor the members of the military who defend our country.

New Business:

The members of the Dam Committee introduced themselves. Mike then introduced Peter Simone who introduced the members of his firm.

Peter advised those in attendance that the Milltown Reservoir was classified as a passive recreation area and there were no plans to change the designation. He noted the Committee was tasked with making recommendations on how the area above the dam would be developed after the dam was breached. The project will proceed in phases and the grants will be applied for. He also mentioned that surveys will be posted on the Township website to obtain input from the public.

Peter stated he had developed four goals for this project:

- Engage the public to get the best plan
- The project should be ecologically sustainable
- Protect the privacy of nearby residents
- Have a low maintenance landscape

He asked residents what they are losing and the residents noted the following:

- Wildlife
- Bald eagles
- Viewshed
- Fishing
- Ice skating
- Looking at water
- Ice hockey
- Open water views
- Joy

- Property values
- Sense of security (privacy)
- Loss of long views over water

Peter then provided some history on the dam and noted the following:

- The area will flood after the dam is breached.
- The landscape will be much more dynamic.
- PA DEP wants nature to determine the location of the stream.
- The water level is expected to be lowered in stages. This will let the exposed areas dry out and vegetation to become established. If need be, the Township will mow the area on a regular basis.
- He noted that State grant applications will be due in April 2017 and the Township will be in a position to apply.

Peter then asked what they would like to have and the residents suggested the following:

- Multiple ponds
- Buffer planting for homes in Waterview
- Scenic views from Reservoir Road
- Maximize the amount of water features

In response to a question, Peter advised that approximately 2 acres of wetlands exist at the reservoir today, and that the Township would be required to mitigate their loss. He noted that ponds require regular maintenance and that there is greater diversity of wildlife in a wetland than in a pond.

Peter then showed photos of amenities that had been installed at other stream restoration projects and the following was noted by those in attendance:

- Install a desilting pond upstream
- Spread milkweed seeds for butterflies
- Do something about the geese
- Maximize the water features
- No fences
- No trails
- Need to address trash problem
- Bike path/trail along Reservoir Road with a connection to Lochwood Lane
- Install crosswalk at Strasburg Road and Reservoir Road

Public Comment

None

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Chuck moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm, and the motion was seconded by Dave and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'LFS', is written over the typed name.

Louis F. Smith, Jr.
Township Manager

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